

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00175 022105Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 SIG-01 SS-14 SP-02 INR-05  
SSO-00 INRE-00 /034 W  
-----014298 022115Z /62  
O 021704Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4037

S E C R E T PARAMARIBO 175

STADIS

LIMDIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AMGT NS  
SUBJ: U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR SURINAM

REF: STATE 26659

1. I CERTAINLY DO HAVE A FEW THINGS TO SAY ABOUT REFTEL.

77 STATE 295629 OF DEC 10 GAVE US OUR STATEMENT OF GOALS  
AND OBJECTIVES AND 77 STATE 291277 GAVE US A MONTH TO  
REGISTER OUR COMMENTS, WHICH WE DID ON JAN 12 IN PARAMARIBO  
0061. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY  
ALL OFFICERS CONCERNED, WERE SIMPLY TO BROADEN THE TEXT  
BY DELETING TWO SPECIFICS BECAUSE WE "PREFER TO LEAVE THE  
OBJECTIVE WORDED AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE." THE DEPARTMENT,  
IN ITS WISDOM, CHOSE NOT TO ACCEPT OUR APPROACH BUT INSTEAD  
ADOPTED A NEW PAPER REplete WITH DETAILED OBJECTIVES. THIS  
IS ANOTHER APPROACH AND CAN NO DOUBT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE  
CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED TO IT IN WASHINGTON BUT I WOULD  
HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE POST WAS AT LEAST ENTITLED TO A  
BRIEF WORD OF EXPLANATION AS TO WHY ITS APPROACH HAD  
NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND ANOTHER PUT IN ITS PLACE. SINCE

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THIS NEW PAPER HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED THROUGH ARA  
AND IS NOW AT THE DEPARTMENT AND INTER-AGENCY LEVEL, AND  
MY COMMENTS MUST BE IN TODAY, I WILL NOT NIT-PICK THE  
SPECIFIC ISSUES LISTED, WITH WHICH WE CAN LIVE, EXCEPT  
TO ASK WHY WE WOULD ASK SURINAM'S HELP ON OIL PRICES  
(DO WE THINK THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE OIL? AT THE MOST  
FAVORABLE ESTIMATE, IF THEY DO STRIKE OIL IT WILL TAKE

EIGHT-TEN YEARS TO COME ON STREAM) AND WHY THE SINGLE ISSUE THAT HAS OCCUPIED MOST OF OUR TIME IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR MANY MONTHS TO COME, THE SHRIMP FISHERY, WAS NOT INCLUDED.

2. THERE IS ONE POINT, HOWEVER, ON WHICH I MUST MAKE THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTION: THE LAST ITEM, "WELCOME MOVEMENT BY SURINAM TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS." I DO NOT SEE HOW IT CAN BE A U.S. GOAL OR OBJECTIVE TO "WELCOME" SOMETHING. IF THE DEPARTMENT MEANS WE SHOULD TRY TO PERSUADE SURINAM TO PARTICIPATE IN CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, THEN THAT SHOULD BE SAID IN PLAIN ENGLISH. UNLESS SOMEONE CAN DEMONSTRATE HOW U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY TRYING TO PERSUADE SURINAM TO DO THIS AGAINST THEIR OWN INCLINATIONS, HOWEVER, I CANNOT AGREE THAT IT SHOULD BE A GOAL OR OBJECTIVE OF OURS. THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN POINTING OUT SINCE THE CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE SHOULD NOT GET OUT IN FRONT OR PUSH THE SURINAMERS ON THIS MATTER BUT SHOULD LET THEM DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. EFFORTS TO INVOLVE SURINAM IN CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS, AND ESPECIALLY ANY ATTEMPT TO FORCE UPON SURINAM OUR DEFINITION OF THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD, WOULD NOT HELP TO MAINTAIN GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD RAISE EXPECTATIONS OF A SHARE IN U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE AREA WHICH WE CANNOT AND PROBABLY WILL NOT WANT TO FULFILL AND WILL IN SECRET

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THE END MOST LIKELY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE CURRENT CAST OF DECISION-MAKERS HERE WHO ARE CLEARLY OPTING FOR A SOUTH AMERICAN FOCUS IN THEIR FOREIGN POLICY.

3. THIS EMBASSY IS SEVERLY HANDICAPPED IN COMMENTING ON THE DEPARTMENT'S MOVES AND POLICIES ON THE INCLUSION OF SURINAM IN THE CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE BY THE LACK OF INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK. WE WERE TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT SURINAM (REPRESENTED ONLY AS AN OBSERVER AND BY A SUBORDINATE EMBASSY OFFICER, WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES SENT MINISTERS) CONSENTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING IN WASHINGTON ONLY AFTER "INTENSIVE" (THEIR WORD) PERSUASION BY ARA. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THAT IS THE CORRECT STORY, SINCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS NEVER TOLD US ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT AT LEAST THAT IS THE WAY THE SURINAM GOVERNMENT LOOKS UPON IT. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT THE GOS MEANS IT WHEN IT SAYS THAT IT IS CENTERING ITS POLICY ON SOUTH AMERICA, ESPECIALLY BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA, AND DOES NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED AS A MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE RELATIONSHIPS

WITH THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, BECAUSE IT DOES WANT TO  
AND IT DOES HAVE, BUT THAT IT CONSIDERS IT A RELATIONSHIP  
AND NOT A MEMBERSHIP. IF WE WANT TO TRY TO CHANGE  
THAT SURINAM POLICY, WE MUST HAVE COGENT REASONS OF U.S.  
INTEREST TO DO SO, AND WE HAVE NOT HEARD THEM.

4. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, ONE DAY'S NOTICE TO COMMENT  
ON A POLICY PAPER THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED WITHIN  
THE BUREAU AND IS ALREADY BEFORE HIGH AUTHORITY IS NO  
WAY TO GET THE EMBASSY'S INPUT ON WHAT SHOULD BE OUR  
FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAVE  
NO OBJECTION TO THE TEXT AS IN STATE 26659 PROVIDED  
THE SENTENCE ON REGIONAL CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS IS DELETED.

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5. P.S. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TAKING POSTS TO TASK  
FOR MONTHS FOR USING THE LONG-DISCONTINUED TAG PFOR.  
WHEN IS SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT GOING TO PUT ITS OWN  
HOUSE IN ORDER?  
ZURHELLEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS, STADIS  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 26659  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR SURINAM  
**TAGS:** AMGT, PEPR, NS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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